



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

SB0387

Introduced 2/7/2007, by Sen. William R. Haine

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Loan Repayment Assistance for Dentists Act. Requires the Department of Public Health to establish an educational loan repayment assistance program for dentists who practice in designated shortage areas in this State for 3 years and who accept certain medical payments under the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that under the program, for each year that a qualified applicant practices full time in this State in a designated shortage area as a dentist, the Department shall, subject to appropriation, award a grant to that person in an amount equal to the amount in dental school loans that the person must repay that year. Provides that the total amount in grants that a person may be awarded under the program must not exceed \$25,000. Provides that the Department shall require recipients to use the grants to pay off their dental school loans. Provides that loan repayment recipients who fail to practice full time in this State for 3 years shall repay the Department a sum equal to 3 times the amount received under the program. Effective July 1, 2007.

LRB095 10642 NHT 30868 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Loan  
5 Repayment Assistance for Dentists Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to establish  
7 a program in the Department of Public Health to increase the  
8 total number of dentists practicing in designated shortage  
9 areas in this State by providing educational loan repayment  
10 assistance grants to dentists.

11 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act, unless the context  
12 otherwise requires:

13 "Dentist" means a person who has received a general license  
14 pursuant to paragraph (a) of Section 11 of the Illinois Dental  
15 Practice Act, who may perform any intraoral and extraoral  
16 procedure required in the practice of dentistry, and to whom is  
17 reserved the responsibilities specified in Section 17 of the  
18 Illinois Dental Practice Act.

19 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

20 "Designated shortage area" means a medically underserved  
21 area or health manpower shortage area as defined by the United  
22 States Department of Health and Human Services or as otherwise

1 designated by the Department of Public Health.

2 "Educational loans" means higher education student loans  
3 that a person has incurred in attending a registered  
4 professional dental education program in this State.

5 "Medical payments" means compensation provided to dentists  
6 for services rendered under Article V of the Illinois Public  
7 Aid Code.

8 "Program" means the educational loan repayment assistance  
9 program for dentists established by the Department under this  
10 Act.

11 Section 15. Establishment of program. The Department shall  
12 establish an educational loan repayment assistance program for  
13 dentists who practice in designated shortage areas in this  
14 State and who accept certain medical payments as defined under  
15 this Act. The Department shall administer the program and make  
16 all necessary and proper rules not inconsistent with this Act  
17 for the program's effective implementation. The Department may  
18 use up to 5% of the appropriation for this program for  
19 administration and promotion of dentist incentive programs.

20 Section 20. Application. Beginning July 1, 2007, the  
21 Department shall, each year, consider applications for  
22 assistance under the program. The form of application and the  
23 information required to be set forth in the application shall  
24 be determined by the Department, and the Department shall

1 require applicants to submit with their applications such  
2 supporting documents as the Department deems necessary.

3 Section 25. Eligibility. To be eligible for assistance  
4 under the program, an applicant must meet all of the following  
5 qualifications:

6 (1) He or she must be a citizen or permanent resident  
7 of the United States.

8 (2) He or she must be a resident of this State.

9 (3) He or she must be practicing full time in this  
10 State as a dentist.

11 (4) He or she must currently be repaying educational  
12 loans.

13 (5) He or she must accept medical payments as defined  
14 in this Act.

15 (6) He or she must continue full-time practice in this  
16 State in a designated shortage area for 3 years.

17 Section 30. The award of grants. Under the program, for  
18 each year that a qualified applicant practices full time in  
19 this State in a designated shortage area as a dentist, the  
20 Department shall, subject to appropriation, award a grant to  
21 that person in an amount equal to the amount in educational  
22 loans that the person must repay that year. However, the total  
23 amount in grants that a person may be awarded under the program  
24 must not exceed \$25,000. The Department shall require

1 recipients to use the grants to pay off their educational  
2 loans.

3 Section 35. Penalty for failure to fulfill obligation. Loan  
4 repayment recipients who fail to practice full time in this  
5 State for 3 years shall repay the Department a sum equal to 3  
6 times the amount received under the program.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
8 2007.